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CIA Director Raborn Is Under Double Attack

Soviets, of course, are after him, but so are some agency 'insiders' who don't like his frank opposition to appeasing Russia.

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From the Allen-Scott Report

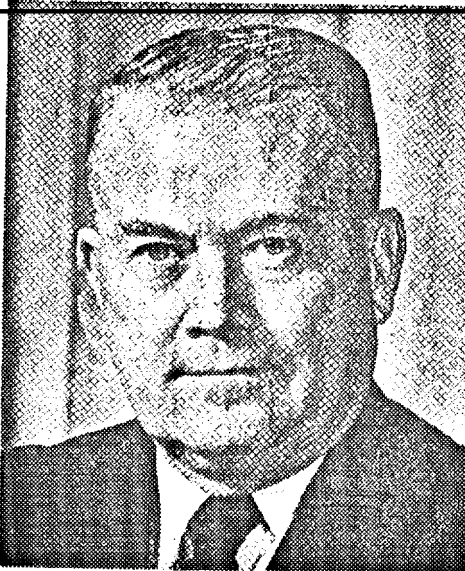
Central Intelligence Director William Raborn is being virulently attacked from both within and outside the huge agency—by some strange bedfellows.

One of these smear campaigns, which involves the circulation of forged documents and planted anti-CIA press reports overseas, is being masterminded by the KGB, the Soviet secret police.

These propaganda operations are part of a long-range scheme to discredit the CIA's worldwide covert activities, and to try to force Adm. Raborn out of office. The immediate KGB objective is to dry up sources which are giving the CIA advance information on the Kremlin's machinations to foment "wars of liberation" in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Illustrative of the scope, nature and success of the CIA's covert operations was the infiltration of its agents at the recent Tri-Continent Revolutionary Conference in Havana.

At the Cuban meeting, Reds from Africa and Latin America called for



Raborn has strong congressional support—but also a few detractors.

the destruction or withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Viet Nam and the Dominican Republic.

The other attack against Raborn is from the rear. Congressional supporters of the Navy veteran deem it as sinister as the other.

These CIA "insiders" are credited with strongly disagreeing with his hard-nosed opposition to making concessions to Russia, and his firm insistence on obtaining "all intelligence" regardless of whether it facilitates friendly relations between the United States and the Soviet.

This inner CIA attack on Raborn is currently manifesting itself in "leaked" stories to columnists and magazines.

The usual tenor of these "plants" is that while Raborn did an outstanding job in directing the Navy's Polaris missile program, he doesn't know how to boss or control the CIA.

According to congressional sources, these anti-Raborn officials, in an effort to embarrass him, are endeavoring to get the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to hold hearings on the CIA's impact on foreign policy.

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Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D.-Minn.) has asked Sen. J. William Fulbright (D.-Ark.), chairman, to initiate a CIA probe. Fulbright is considering the matter.

Should Fulbright reject the proposal, it is McCarthy's intention to sponsor a resolution authorizing such an investigation by a special committee. This would have to be voted on by the full Senate.

Congressional friends of Raborn attribute some of his difficulties with long-time career CIA employees to his setting up around-the-clock watch officers to keep him constantly informed of Russian and Chinese covert operations. This highly sensitive check system was put into effect when Raborn learned that either important intelligence was not sent to him or delivery was delayed for days.

Under the new arrangement, he is briefed "before 7:00 a.m.," and conveys essential information to President Johnson immediately after he awakens.

The President, who personally selected Raborn, thoroughly approves the way he is functioning and is giving him his full support.

Efforts to label Raborn as inexperienced and ineffective are brushed off by the President. He is telling critics that his confidence in Raborn's ability has grown since he became head of CIA.

Raborn has strong support in Congress, led by Speaker John McCormack (D.-Mass.). These legislators are particularly impressed by Raborn's routing CIA officials out of bed with early-morning calls about urgent developments in their areas.

Adm. Raborn also is trying to keep the CIA's super-secret intelligence estimate division on its toes by making this closed shop justify its special reports before they are circulated as official documents.

"If Raborn can help it, no CIA estimate will contain any of those fancy, preconceived ideas as in the past," one informed legislator said. "He has guts and brains, and all he wants from his staff are the facts and nothing but the facts."

Also highly regarded by Administration authorities are Raborn's harmonious relations with FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. They work closely and smoothly together.

They have one thing very much in common. The Soviet's KGB is out to discredit both and to drive them from office. Hoover is first on KGB's list.

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